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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PRESIDING OFFICER'S  
RULING NO. MC96-3/15

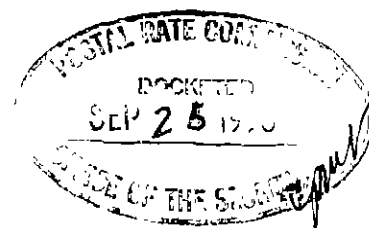
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Special Services Fees and Classifications

Docket No. MC96-3

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING GRANTING  
MAJOR MAILERS ASSOCIATION MOTION FOR  
EXTENSION OF TIME  
AND  
AMENDING THE PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

(September 25, 1996)



Major Mailers Association's Motion for Limited Extension of Time to File Testimony and Request for Shortened Answering Period (Motion) was submitted on September 24, 1996, the day before the case-in-chief of participants, including rebuttal to the Postal Service, was scheduled to be filed. I will grant the Motion and make other appropriate corresponding adjustments in the procedural schedule.

In support of its motion, Major Mailers Association (MMA) indicates that it intended to provide direct testimony utilizing outdated 1994 cost data since that was the only available cost data which reflected current, approved costing methodology. It requests that the date for filing testimony be extended by three working days to allow it to incorporate the 1995 cost information made available on September 20, 1996, in Library References MC96-3, PRC-LR-1 and PRC-LR-2.

The Office of the Consumer Advocate filed a statement in support of the MMA Motion, and suggests that the extension be applicable to all participant direct cases.<sup>1</sup> The Postal Service also filed a statement in response to the MMA Motion.<sup>2</sup> It expresses misgivings, but not direct opposition, to granting MMA additional time to file testimony; and it opposes extending the filing date for participants other than MMA. Finally, the Service requests that if the filing date is extended for all participants, an equal extension should be provided to the period for discovery on participant evidence.

I will grant the MMA Motion, and also allow participants to file their direct testimony, including rebuttal to the Postal Service, on September 30, 1996.<sup>3</sup> The record will benefit from allowing intervenors to incorporate recently available information on Base Year and Test Year costs into prefiled direct testimony. I will also extend the period for discovery directed to intervenors and the OCA by three business days, to October 30, 1996. Thus, no participant will be harmed by granting MMA's Motion.

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<sup>1</sup> Office of the Consumer Advocate Answer in Support of MMA Motion for Extension of Time, September 24, 1996.

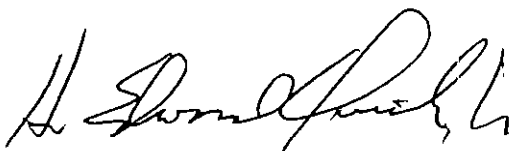
<sup>2</sup> Statement of the United States Postal Service Concerning Major Mailers Association's and Office of the Consumer Advocate's Motions for Extension of Time to File Testimony (Statement), September 25, 1996.

<sup>3</sup> This ruling does not affect the extension of time to file direct testimony granted to Nashua et al. in Presiding Officer's Ruling MC96-3/13.

## RULING

1. The Major Mailers Association's Motion for Limited Extension of Time to File Testimony is granted.

2. The procedural schedule for this case is adjusted as shown on Attachment A to this ruling.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Edward Quick, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

H. Edward Quick, Jr.  
Presiding Officer

Ruling MC96-3/15  
Attachment A

AMENDED HEARING SCHEDULE FOR PROCEEDINGS  
DOCKET NO. MC96-3

<b>September 30, 1996</b>	Filing of participants' case-in-chief, including rebuttal to Postal Service.
<b>October 30, 1996</b>	Complete discovery directed to intervenors and OCA.
October 30, 1996	Identify expected amount of oral cross-examination. Report on the availability of witnesses.
November 15, 1996	Completion of all discovery directed to the Postal Service.
November 18-22, 1996	Evidentiary hearings as to the case-in-chief of intervenors and OCA.
December 6, 1996	Filing of evidence in rebuttal to direct cases of participants other than Postal Service. (No discovery to be permitted on this rebuttal evidence)
December 16-20, 1996	Hearings on rebuttal to participant direct evidence.
January 7, 1997	Initial briefs filed.
January 14, 1997	Reply briefs filed.

Revised dates appear in bold type